

F-7187

Ser. No. 09/982,563

REMARKS

The Amendment filed on February 27, 2003 incorporated the old format for making amendments to the specification and pending claims. Accordingly, this amendment properly uses a presently acceptable format for making amendments. Entry of these amendments along with consideration of new claims 18-26, added on February 27, 2003, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 8 and 10 to 17 have been canceled. Claim 9 has been amended. New claims 18 to 26 have been added. Accordingly, claims 9 and 18 to 26 remain in this application.

The Examiner's indication that claims 12 to 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims is gratefully acknowledged. Accordingly, this is what applicant has done. Thus, it will be seen that new claim 18 includes the subject matter of claims 8 and 12. Also claim 9 has been amended to depend on new claim 18. Accordingly, new claim 18 and amended claim 9 represent claim 12 in independent form.

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New claim 19 includes the subject matter of claims 8 and 13. New claim 20 includes the subject matter of claim 9 and depends on claim 19. Accordingly, claims 19 and 20 represent claim 13 in independent form.

New claim 21 includes the subject matter of claims 8, 13 and 14. Also, new claim 22 includes the subject matter of claim 9 and depends on new claim 21. Accordingly, new claims 21 and 22 represent claim 14 in independent form.

New claim 23 includes the subject matter of claims 8 and 15. Also, new claim 24 includes the subject matter of claim 9 and depends on claim 23. Accordingly, claims 23 and 24 represent claim 15 in independent form.

New claim 25 includes the subject matter of claims 8, 15 and 16. Also, new claim 26 includes the subject matter of claim 9 and depend on claim 25. Accordingly, new claims 25 and 26 represent claim 16 in independent form.

It would be seen from above that new claims 18 to 25 and amended claim 9 represent claims 12 to 16 in independent form. In view of the Examiner's indication, it is believed that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

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Comments directed to the prior art are not considered necessary inasmuch as the claims remaining in this application are directed to subject matter considered allowable by the Examiner.

In the Official Action, the Examiner indicated that the numeral 153 on page 20 was not shown in the drawings. It is not shown that the numeral 153 is included on page 20. Accordingly, reconsideration of this objection is respectfully requested.

If not already charged when the February 27, 2003 Amendment was filed, please charge the cost of \$168.00 for the two (2) additional independent claims at \$84.00 each to Deposit Account 10-1250. If there are any additional charges, please charge to the same Deposit Account No.

If not already charged when the February 27, 2003 Amendment was filed, applicant requests a three month extension. Please charge \$930.00 for the three month extension to Deposit Account 10-1250. If there are any additional charges, please charge to the same Deposit Account No.

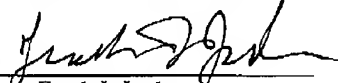
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In view of the Amendment to the specification, correction of the drawings
are not required.

Respectfully submitted,

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